



Chesterfield County Disability Services Board



Needs Assessment Report February 2009

Chesterfield County Disability Services Board
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I. Introduction

The Chesterfield Disability Services Board (CDSB) serves the county of Chesterfield, Virginia, population 314,000 (2009 Chesterfield County Planning Department Population Estimate). It is projected that Chesterfield's population will reach 370,000 by 2020.

A. Duties of the Chesterfield Disability Services Board

In 1992, the General Assembly legislated the development of the Disability Services Boards (DSBs) to assist localities in identifying and addressing the needs of persons with physical and sensory disabilities in their communities. The Disability Services Boards and their grant program, the Rehabilitative Services Incentive Fund, originated in a 1992 report of the Disability Commission.

Although DSBs cannot provide direct services, they play a vital role in the development and expansion of services to improve access for Virginians with disabilities. Local governments appoint board members to fulfill this charge. Membership is comprised of local government representatives, business representatives, and individuals with physical or sensory disabilities or family members of people with physical or sensory disabilities. As defined in Section 51.5-47 of the Code of Virginia, it is the duty of the CDSB to assess the local service needs and advise the appropriate state and local agencies serving persons with physical and sensory disabilities of their development of public and private funding sources and is charged with developing funding requests for the improvement or creation of services for persons with physical and sensory disabilities.

Over 500 individuals serve on Virginia's 41 Disability Services Boards, which represent every political jurisdiction in the Commonwealth.

B. Demographic Information Since 2006

According to data from the 2000 U.S. Census, Chesterfield county is the fourth largest county in Virginia and its fifth largest jurisdiction. Growth is expected to continue in Chesterfield at a projected increase of more than 60,000 persons between 2000 and 2010. The data shows that:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
2007	306,000
2008	311,000
2009	314,000 (January 2009 estimate)
2020	370,000 (projection, 5/27/08 report)

It is important to note that there is a significant percentage growth in the number of Chesterfield residents over age 70. Many of these older residents will have a physical disability as they age. The exact numbers of persons with physical and sensory disabilities in Chesterfield is difficult, if not impossible to determine. As the general population increases, the number of persons with physical and sensory disabilities is reasonably expected to increase.

II. Purpose of the Needs Assessment Report

As required by the Code of Virginia, Section 51.5-48, the purpose of this biennial Needs Assessment is to provide updated information and input to state and local governments on the service needs and priorities of persons with physical, sensory and pervasive disabilities in Chesterfield County. Additionally, the Needs Assessment will help the CDSB to set goals for the next several years.

III. Data Collections Methods

- A. Consumer Survey: Articles were put in the local newspapers about the Needs Assessment Survey for persons with physical and sensory disabilities, with information on where to obtain a survey.
- B. The survey was given to each board member to distribute around the county to individuals, agencies and organizations. Among the agencies responding to the survey and distributing to people with this disability were Resources for Independent Living, Department of Rehabilitative Services, Virginia Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Senior Connections – The Capital Area Agency on Aging and the Veterans Hospital.
- C. Telephone Survey: A number of people called to respond to our request for their participation in the survey and completed the survey by phone.
- D. Internet Survey: The survey was listed on the county's web site, where it was downloaded, filled out, printed, and a hardcopy mailed to the office. As a result of electronic and Internet distribution of the CDSBs Needs Assessment Survey, it is impossible to determine an exact number of surveys distributed and a corresponding response rate.
- E. Email Survey: The survey was sent in an email to all county employees, asking those with a physical or sensory disability or those with a family member with this disability to fill out a survey.

IV. Data Demographic Information

The number of surveys returned was disappointing to the Board. A total of 31 surveys were received from individuals and providers. It is important to note that the CDSB is not confident that the results or findings in this Needs Assessment report are a representative sample or a true or realistic basis of the needs of persons with physical and/or sensory disabilities in Chesterfield.

As noted above, the CDSB believes that given the low return of surveys, the findings and conclusions in this report are not necessarily based on a representative sample of persons with physical and sensory disabilities in Chesterfield and their needs. However, a generalization can be made that the results of the returned survey do point to some of the recognized needs in the community.

A. Of the 31 survey respondents:

- 21 have a physical or sensory disability.
- 12 have a family member who has a physical or sensory disability.

B. Age Groups of Respondents

6 – 19 years	2 respondents
20 – 29 years	4 respondents
30 – 39 years	2 respondents
40 – 49 years	3 respondents
50 – 59 years	7 respondents
60 – 69 years	6 respondents
70 – 73 years	2 respondents
80 – 89 years	4 respondents

C. Education of Respondents

Current Student	2
Completed 9 th grade	1
Attended some college	9
Associate's degree	1
College graduate	6
Post Graduate Work	1
Doctorate	1

D. Disabilities of Respondents

Hearing	3
Limited Mobility/Physically Disabled	11
Blind/Visually Impaired	2
Brain Injury	1

Other

16

E. Of the 31 individual surveys received:

- **Veterans:** Six of the individuals were Veterans.
- **Employment:** Three of the individuals work part-time, 1 full-time, 12 are retired, 1 is a volunteer and 11 are unemployed.
- **Health Care:** 12 have private insurance, 19 have Medicare, seven have Medicaid, and two individuals have no insurance coverage.
- **Living Arrangements:** 17 of the respondents owned their own home/apartment/condo, five individuals rent, and eight live with a parent/relative or friend.

F. Provider Demographics:

Of the seven providers who work with people who have a physical or sensory disability:

- One provides direct service to 128 clients and provided over 500 referrals last year.
- Another provider serves 300 clients.
- The third provider serves 18 clients.
- The fourth provider provides direct service for 130 clients.
- Another provider serves 6 clients.
- The sixth provider serves 17 clients.
- The seventh provider is a counselor and manager over seven caseloads, approximately 1,100 consumers.
- Another person who responded plans to advocate for people with a physical or sensory disability.

V. Summary of Results

A. Survey responders were asked to identify their top three priorities from a list of 14 Core Service Areas, based on their service needs or the needs of their family member with a physical or sensory disability. The three critical need areas are:

1. **Medical/Therapeutic Services:** This represents medical and dental services, physical therapy and medical insurance. Eight responded that this was one of their critical service needs. Two responders said this was an important need.
2. **Personal Assistance:** Identified as activities of daily living – bathing, meals, dressing, housekeeping, shopping and toileting – eight responded that this was one of their critical service needs. Six responded that this was an important need, two stated that they received these services, but needed more.
3. **Transportation:** Identified as available and accessible public or private transportation, seven responded that this was a critical need. Four respondents said this was an important need, and two responded that they receive these

services but needed more.

The other Core Service Areas are listed in order of importance:

1. **Assistive Technology** is identified as needing help in getting wheelchairs, hearing aids, talkers, switches, signalers, TTY's, Braille materials, interpreters, walkers, computers, scooters, etc. Six responded that this is a critical need, one said this is an important need, and two individuals said that they received these services but needed more.
 2. **Housing** – affordable, accessible or subsidized housing, home modifications or group homes — five rated this core area as critical and three saw this as an important need.
 3. **Case Management** is described as a person or agency to help access and coordinate available services. Five respondents said this is a critical need and one individual said they received this service but needed more.
 4. **Training** is identified as qualified service providers, such as interpreters, in-home caregivers and medical practitioners. Four individuals saw this as a critical need and two respondents said this was an important need.
 5. **Education**, seeing that children receive appropriate, reasonable accommodations and transition services to work or school, is identified as a critical need for three individuals.
 6. **Family Support Services/Respite Services**, described as assistance to family members, support groups and/or respite care, three said this is a critical need and two said that they received these services but needed more.
 7. **Employment Services** is identified as job search/placement, preparation, training, work site adaptations, is a critical need for three respondents, important need for one respondent and one respondent said they received this service but needed more.
 8. **Counseling**, professional help with vocational or personal life stressors, is identified as a critical need by two respondents, and identified as an important need by two respondents.
 9. **Independent Living Skills**, daily activities training for maximum self-sufficiency, is seen as an important need for three individuals, and two responded that they received these services but needed more.
- B. Provider respondents were asked to identify the top three priorities from a list of 14 Core Service Areas, based on the service needs of their clients with a physical or sensory disability. Based upon the clients that they see, the three most critical areas are:
1. **Transportation**. All four providers rated this as the most critical need of the

clients that they work with.

2. **Family Support Services/Respite Services** is rated as a critical need by three providers and an important need by 1 provider.
3. **Personal Assistance** is rated as a critical need by three respondents and one respondent said that their clients are receiving personal assistance help, but that more of these services are needed.

V. Many of the respondents wrote comments on the survey. The comments, grouped in the core service area, are listed below.

- **Assistive Technology**

- A. Some work facilities are not very accessible. Everyone with limited mobility does not use a scooter or wheelchair; to do so would further debilitate some people. They need the opportunity to stop and rest when needed and to not have to walk great distances to the entrances and exits of buildings.
- B. There is no assistance, even in the form of loans, for hearing aids. It should not be demeaning to try to get assistance for any medically necessary equipment. A co-worker took her hearing impaired Mother in for testing and received all of her TTY and strobe devices through the Department for Deaf at no cost. When I took my daughter for an assessment (she is now 8 years old), they handed me a catalog.

- **Case Management**

- A. There is a need for recreational activities, legal and financial counseling, Alzheimer/dementia education and help applying for SSI and Disability.

- **Education**

- A. My son is 16 years old, but he needs a computer to help him communicate.

- **Employment Services**

- A. I would like to work from home, but I need a computer to do this and I can't afford one.

- **Housing**

- A. I applied for a block grant with Elderhomes. With the grant, I was able to get an accessible shower and a deck with railings for my home.
- B. I need help to make my bathroom accessible at home.
- C. There is a need for supervised housing/group homes.
- D. I need a Section 8 Voucher. I can't afford to move and can't afford the rent.

- **Independent Living Skills**

- A. Wheelchair accessible bathrooms are at the furthest end of the restrooms and then my wheelchair doesn't fit in the bathroom. When I come out

of the toilet area to wash my hands, the towels are not next to the sink, so I have to use my wet hands to roll over to the paper towel dispenser. This is a problem for others as well.

- **Personal Assistance**

- A. There is not a lot of assistance for brain injury individuals, especially those with some ability but not fully able to care for themselves.

- **Transportation**

- A. Transportation is a critical need.

- B. The county transportation program is a little pricey for me.

- C. I need transportation that is a lower cost than the current county program.

- **Other**

- A. There are critical needs in most of the core service areas and reduced government funding is affecting all areas.

- B. Some of the direct service clients are not all “disabled”, many are frail elderly.

VI. Contacting the Chesterfield Disability Services Board.

On behalf of the residents in Chesterfield with physical and sensory disabilities, the CDSB will continue to advocate and partner for further progress for people with disabilities to live, work, be independent, and enjoy the benefits of full access to community life in the county of Chesterfield.

For questions or comments, please contact Disability Services at:

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